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THE MONTHLY GULL BULLETIN

AUDUBON ASSOCIATION OF THE PACIFIC

VOLUME 27 SAN FRANCISCO, CALIF., APRIL, 1945 NUMBER 4

Spotted Owl

On February 7, 1945, the writer and Ward Armstrong observed a Spotted Owl (*Strix occidentalis*) in a farmyard one mile southwest of Durham (Butte County), California. The farm house was located in a moderately thick grove of Valley Oak, and though not regularly occupied, was visited daily by the owner, who stated that the Owl had been around for some weeks. The bird was perched in a thick tangle of rose bushes against the house and some ten feet off the ground. He acted in the fashion of less feral owls, dozing except when approached too closely, when he would open his eyes for brief intervals. During the hour or so he was under observation he did not offer to move except to shift his feet occasionally.

—WALTER A. HICKS,
Berkeley, California.

Birds of an April Dawn in Strawberry Canyon

Sometimes in past years it has been my good luck to be with a group which met before daylight in Strawberry Canyon, to be in readiness to listen to the April dawn chorus of bird voices. Dates varied from the third to the twenty-sixth of the month. We found the last half of April to be the most productive, both as to kinds of birds noted and as to volume of sound. Over the years we heard a total of forty-six species of birds, but our highest total for a single morning was thirty. Once we heard only fifteen.

The state of the weather seemed to make but little difference to the birds — light rain, fog, or a clear dawn. The chorus usually approached its peak a little after five o'clock, earlier if our visit was late in the month.

On April 20, 1935, we reached our observation post at 3:25 a.m., with clear skies overhead. At 3:31 a Screech Owl gave his quavering call, then for more than an hour all was silent about us. At 4:43 a Song Sparrow burst into song. A few seconds later a Spotted Towhee called. Then the Brown Towhee, Lutescent and Golden Pileolated warblers were heard and soon a Tolmie joined in. At 4:55,

just before a fog rolled in, to hide from view the ridge opposite us, two Poor-wills were silhouetted against the sky as they flew over, one "poor-willing".

At 5:10 we heard first a Steller and then a California Jay. Russet-backed Thrushes called at 5:00 o'clock, and soon three were in full song, but by 6:00 o'clock they were silent again. Black-headed Grosbeaks were not so early, but sang consistently each year in the tops of oaks or laurels, up by the Botanical garden.

Whatever dawn we chose, there was always some especial treat awaiting us. Once it was a Lincoln Sparrow in full song (identified by Joseph Grinnell). Another time it was "Hummingbird Day", for on the sun-lit canyon wall where ceanothus bloomed were Anna, Allen, Rufous and Calliope hummingbirds about the blossoms.

Make a resolution to visit Strawberry Canyon at the dawn of an April day. You will be richly rewarded as the bird voices come in, kind by kind, until the canyon rings with avian music.

—HILDA W. GRINNELL

March Field Trip

Members of the Audubon Association of the Pacific and their guests who attend the yearly spring trip to the Tilden Regional Park have learned to anticipate the leadership of Mr. W. D. Landels of the San Jose Ornithological Club with great pleasure. This year was no exception to the rule. The sky was overcast a large part of the day which may have accounted for the paucity of songs heard. Golden-crowned Kinglets and Varied Thrushes were searched for diligently but with no success. The following thirty species were observed.

Great Blue Heron	California Jay	Audubon's Warbler
Canvas-back	Plain Titmouse	Cal. Purple Finch
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Bush-Tit	House Finch
Red-tailed Hawk	Wren-Tit	Pine Siskin
Coot	Bewick's Wren	Spotted Towhee
Killdeer	Robin	Brown Towhee
Anna's Hummingbird	Hermit Thrush	Oregon Junco
Allen's Hummingbird	Ruby-crowned Kinglet	Nuttall's Sparrow
Red-shafted Flicker	Hutton's Vireo	Golden-crowned Sparrow
Steller (Crested) Jay	Lutescent Warbler	Song Sparrow

It was thought that this was a small number as compared with former years, but the Gull for April 1944 states that only thirty-one were noted for March 1944.

Members attending were: Mesdames Anable, Stowell; Misses Blake, Goen, Kirk, MacIver, Papina, Roscoe, Stanton; Messrs. Berger, Heyneman, Kwasky, Leffler, McGuckin, Myer. There were also eight guests, making twenty-three in all.

—IVANDER MACIVER

March Meeting

The 33rd meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific was held Thursday evening, March 8, 1945.

Mr. Bradley reported to the members on his recent trip to Washington, D.C., and said he had arranged to have the pictures and script of the "Art of Audubon" sent from Audubon House to be shown to the members in the spring.

An article on the work and writings of the late Mrs. James T. Allen was read.

The speaker of the evening, Dr. Carlton M. Herman, Parasitologist of Game Conservation, California Division of Fish and Game, was introduced by the vice-president, Mr. Walter W. Bradley. Dr. Herman reminisced on his research in America and in Europe on bird diseases, what these diseases do to birds and what is being done here in California to control the transmission and infection of these diseases.

—JEAN BRADFORD FAY, *Recording Secretary*

Observations

Edited by Junea W. Kelly

The following observations have been reported:

3 Slate-colored Juncos, Feb. 10-11-25, March 5, 11000 Broadway Terrace; one pair of Bufflhead Ducks, February 15, Lake Merritt, Mrs. Vee K. Curtis.

1 male Cinnamon Teal, March 11, Berkeley Aquatic Park, Ruth Elwonger and Mrs. Blanche Clear.

Red-breasted Sapsucker, March 3, near Codornices Park, Berkeley, Paul Altrocchi.

Lutescent Warbler, March 11, Larkspur, Mrs. Ward Austin, reported by Mrs. M. Courtright.

Allen, Rufus and Anna Hummingbirds visiting flowering quince hedge March 11, Larkspur, Mrs. M. Courtright.

Lutescent Warblers, March 11, Garber Park, Berkeley; 50 Short-billed Gulls, Marina; 15 Ring-necked Ducks, Fine Arts Pool; 4 Tree Swallows, Point Reyes Station; 1500 Black Brant, 500 Western Grebes, 1 Horned Grebe, 2 Red-throated and 1 Pacific Loon, 7 Wilson Snipe, Say Phoebe, Tomales Bay; 1 Common Loon, Bolinas Bay, March 8, Junea W. Kelly.

Articles in Our Exchange Publications

In the January 1945 issue of the "Audubon Magazine" appears a fine illustrated account about our well-known member, Mr. Charles (Bert) Harwell, written by that outstanding nature writer, Donald Culross Peattie. In this same number see "Winter Watching" by Alan Devoe, another fine nature writer.

The "Canadian Nature" for March-April 1945 has "Mystery of the Flyways" with several fine charts and illustrations by Donald Culross Peattie; also an article on Canadian Birds with colored illustrations.

In "The Bulletin" of the Massachusetts Audubon Society for February, 1945 see "Invite Your Bird Neighbors to Dinner" by Edwin A. Mason. There are several very good illustrations of feeding shelves in this article. In "Ornithologists Alive" appears an account of the third of present ornithologists of the series being published. This is about Winsor Morrett Tyler.

"Natural History" for March, 1945, a beautifully illustrated magazine gotten

out by the American Museum of Natural History, has articles on various nature subjects. The magazine's cover has a fine kodachrome illustration of the Canada Goose, photographed by Henry B. Kane with a descriptive account on the first page. A series of illustrations of interest to all Californians are those on "The California Mule Deer", by Joyce and Josef Muench in this issue.

"Western Tanager" for March, 1945, the Los Angeles Audubon Society's publication, has an article by Georgie Ware, a look-out in the Los Angeles National Forest, telling of the many birds to be observed from the Los Pinetos 3600 ft. peak.

"The Condor" published by the Cooper Ornithological Club has in its January-February issue for 1945 a very fine article on "The Role of Learning in the Feeding Behavior of Black-chinned Hummingbirds", by Frank Bené. Another article tells of "The Hawaiian Goose, Its Distribution and Reduction in Numbers", by Paul H. Baldwin.

Trip to Game Farm

The Napa Association invites our Association to join it on its field trip to Circle H Game Farm on Sunday, April 22, 1945. Take Greyhound bus which leaves Seventh and Mission in San Francisco at 8:00 a.m., and San Pablo and 20th Street in Oakland at 8:30 a.m., and Addison and Shattuck in Berkeley at 8:46 a.m.

New Member

Reported by Miss MacIver at March meeting — Miss Camilla Paroni — 2642 Cedar Street, Berkeley 8. Proposed by Miss Clelia A. Paroni.

April Meeting

The 331th meeting of the Audubon Association of the Pacific will be held Thursday evening, April 12, 1945 at 7:30 p.m. in the Assembly Room of the San Francisco Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets.

The speaker is to be Dr. R. C. Stebbins, assistant curator of herpetology, Museum of Vertebrate Zoology, University of California. His subject will be "Owls and Their Voices," and will be illustrated by skins and lantern slides.

April Field Trip

The April Field Trip will be taken in the vicinity of Mills College (Oakland) on the 15th. Members and friends take the "N" bus at the S. F. Terminal at 9:00 a.m. (check schedule) and get off at Seminary and MacArthur Boulevard, where they will meet the East Bay party.

Bring binoculars and lunch.

Leader—Donald Brock.

Audubon Association of the Pacific

Organized January 25, 1917

For the Study and the Protection of Birds

President.....Mr. Arthur H. Myer.....25 El Camino Real, Berkeley 5
Corresponding Secretary.....Mr. Joseph J. Webb.....519 California St., San Francisco 4
Treasurer.....Miss Ivander MacIver.....2414 Telegraph Ave., Berkeley 4
Editor.....Miss Clelia A. Paroni.....575 Vincente Avenue, Berkeley 6

Monthly meetings second Thursday, 7:30 p.m.

Assembly Room, San Francisco Public Library, Larkin and McAllister Streets, San Francisco.

Membership dues, payable January 1st, $3.00 per year.

Student memberships, $1.50 per year. Life memberships, $50.00.

Members are responsible for dues until written notice of resignation is received by Treasurer.